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Whither England cricket?
It's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

Likud and Tsomet agree to Gesher's demands

SARAH HONIG

THE Likud-Tsomet-Gesher deal will be signed at midday today in the Knesset, after the three partners spent most of yesterday in hectic talks.

The deal is expected to be approved by the Likud central committee next week.

The impasse was finally broken when Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu personally mediated between Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan and Gesher's David Levy. He convinced Eitan to drop his opposition to Levy's being named acting prime minister should the Likud win the elections.

In return, Eitan was assured that Tsomet would receive preferential treatment in appointments to Knesset committees.

Despite the pressure exerted on him, Levy refused to budge from his position that the memorandum of understanding Gesher had put together with the Likud Thursday morning was the final deal. He warned that if the Likud backed out, then the blame for the failure to unite the national camp would fall upon it.

Since the differences were seen as nothing but demands by Levy for an ego massage, Netanyahu personally appealed to Eitan, who was warily lauded for sacrificing his own interest for the good of the joint ticket.

Eitan had already yielded the second slot on the ticket to Levy. There was considerable chagrin in Tsomet since the polls promised it at least three times as many Knesset seats as Gesher.

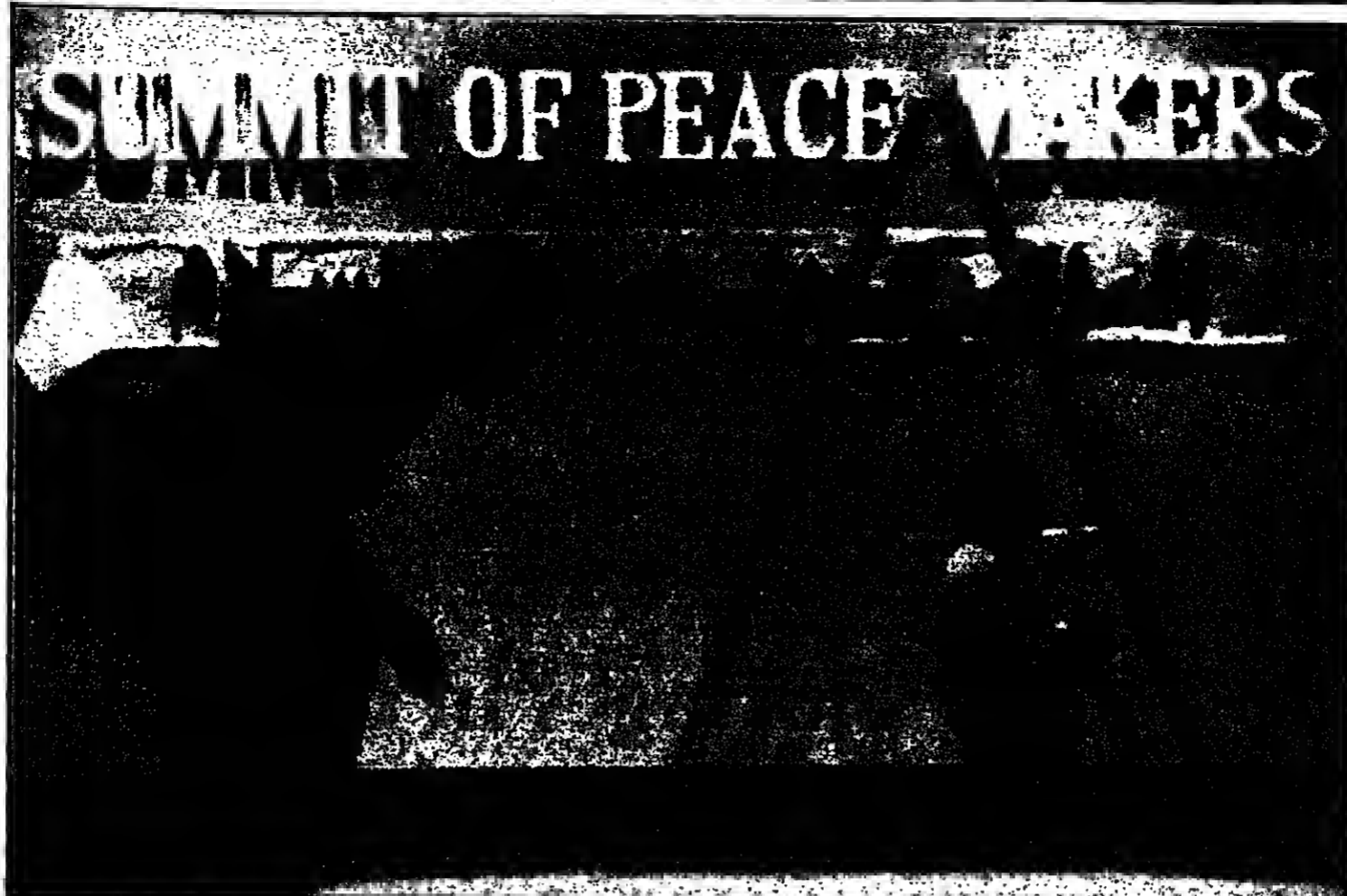
Levy, his prestige demands satisfied, had no problems compromising on the parliamentary influence his faction would have.

Despite the fact that the impasse was close to a solution, Levy continued to studiously avoid Netanyahu.

The concessions Levy appeared to win are far from meaningful. If the Likud wins the elections, all he would end up with would be the gavel at cabinet sessions when the prime minister is away.

It is thought that neither Tsomet nor Gesher really had any choice but to stay wedded to the Likud. Having accepted Netanyahu's candidacy for prime minister, as well as slots on the Likud

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Last-minute preparations are made yesterday for tomorrow's 'Summit of Peacemakers' gathering in Sharm e-Sheikh. (Reuters)

Hizbullah: We receive financial and political support from Iran

News agencies

FOR the first time, Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah has acknowledged publicly that Iran is financing the group.

"We don't hide Iranian support. There is no need to deny that we receive financial and political support from Iran," Nasrallah declared in an interview that appeared yesterday in the London-based weekly *Al Wasat*. "We are not shy and they [Iranians] are not afraid about it."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shimon Peres told the Labor Knesset faction that "there is actual physical pressure by Iran on Hizbullah to intensify its activities. There is physical

pressure on Islamic Jihad as well to be more active."

In the interview, Nasrallah said that Hizbullah fighters may spread their war on Israeli forces in south Lebanon to other areas.

"The confrontation with the Israeli outside the land where it [Israel] exists has not taken place until now, but I cannot guarantee the future because it is linked to the intensity of the struggle," he said. "A time may come in which Israel forces us to fight it in every land."

Nasrallah also confirmed that Syria is facili-

tating Hizbullah's arms supplies through routes in northern and eastern Lebanon.

He said that since Hizbullah was founded in 1982 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Syria has provided the party with "a political cover, moral support, and field facilities."

"Syrian forces are stationed in the Bekaa and the north. These two areas constituted the background of support for resistance fighters in occupied areas," he said.

"Of course, Syria didn't give us money. It has supported us and facilitated" arms supplies, Nasrallah added.

Lubrani: Syrian no-show at summit proves it's not anti-terror

DAVID RUDGE

ISRAEL has always known that Hizbullah is financed, trained, and armed by Iran, Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on Lebanon, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

"Now along comes [Hizbullah leader] Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and confirms this loud and clear. He goes even further by declaring that Syria is also directly involved, by permitting the logistics of this Iranian effort to pass through its territory," said Lubrani.

"He is admitting that Iran is behind Hizbullah and that, in essence, Hizbullah is serving as an extension of Iran's efforts to subvert, if not to kill, the peace process. He also admits that Syria is fully in the know and is aiding and abetting these efforts."

Lubrani said he did not know if

there was any connection between Nasrallah's disclosures and the international anti-terror summit scheduled to be held in Sharm e-Sheikh tomorrow.

"This is something you should ask Nasrallah himself. In my opinion though, there is a unequivocal indication that Hizbullah has made a decision to call a spade a spade. They are now openly confirming this Iranian and Syrian connection, which is behind all terrorist activity directed against Israel from Lebanon."

He reiterated that Hizbullah is a terrorist organization and not a Lebanese resistance movement. "We have always said that Hizbullah's claim that it is fighting a resistance war is a sham. Nasrallah has now made this clear.

"Hizbullah is acting at the behest of the leaders in Teheran, and is fully committed to acting against the peace process. Syria, for its part, has always been playing a double game and this is also made clear now."

Lubrani said Syria's non-participation in the Sharm e-Sheikh conference is in itself a sign that "Syria does not belong to the countries which are against terror."

Nasrallah's disclosures were made in an interview with the London-based weekly *Al Wasat*. He was also quoted as saying that Hizbullah might take the confrontation with Israel outside the present boundaries.

"There is a clear threat in this, but I'm not impressed. We are not going to refrain from acting in self-defense because of threats," Lubrani said.

IDF orders expulsion of all Gaza students from West Bank

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and JON IMMANUEL

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Itan Biran has ordered all Gazans currently studying at West Bank colleges and universities to immediately report to civil liaison offices to be transported back to the Gaza Strip.

Biran issued the order last night, saying anyone who does not comply will be considered illegal and faces "all possible consequences."

Students from the Gaza Strip have made up the major core group of Hamas activists on Palestinian campuses in the West Bank, Biran said. The IDF has closed at least six colleges linked with Hamas in Judea and Samaria, and military sources said there are "a few hundred" Gazan students currently living in the West Bank who are not considered illegal.

The army has also demanded that the Palestinian Authority expel Gazan students currently in areas under its control, but so far they have declined to do so, a

military source said. The recently uncovered Hamas terror cell at the Teachers' Training College in Ramallah was organized by a Gaza resident, who is still at large. The cell was responsible for both suicide attacks on the No. 18 buses in Jerusalem on February 25 and March 3, as well as the Ashkelon bombing.

The IDF, meanwhile, has compensated 20 families in Burka for damage done to their houses while it blew up the house of a suicide bomber. Compensation ranges from NIS 300-NIS 1000 for cracks and broken windows. The owner of the neighboring house, which was almost totally destroyed along with that of the Sharabuni family, whose son blew up bus No.18 last week, is negotiating a rental agreement until a new house can be built at Israel's expense.

Palestinians have condemned the house demolitions as collective punishment.

Clinton praises terror victims' families in US

ON the eve of his trip to Egypt for the anti-terrorism summit, President Bill Clinton paid homage yesterday to the families of two of terrorism's recent victims.

"I thank them for their incalculable sacrifice, and for their continued devotion to the integrity and freedom of Israel," Clinton said to the families of Alisa Flatow and Sara Duker, who died in separate terror attacks in Israel.

Clinton was at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Hackensack, New Jersey, to deliver his first major speech on the environment in the 1996 campaign. Before the speech, Steve Flatow, Alisa's father, said, "I am tired of hearing about the peace process. We are losing sight of the victims."

Flatow said he would tell the president, in a brief meeting after the speech, to put pressure on Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat "until he eliminates Hamas and Islamic Jihad."

Summit aims to push peace process on, says Mubarak

LIAT COLLINS, HILLEL KUTTLER, and news agencies

WORLD leaders gathering in Sharm e-Sheikh tomorrow for the "Summit of Peacemakers" will be asked to recommit themselves to the Middle East peace process and to pledge to fight the forces opposed to it.

President Hosni Mubarak, arriving in the Sinai resort town yesterday, told reporters that the summit "will discuss how to move the peace process ahead ... in the shadow of the terrorist operations, which are blocking it."

Asked if he expected specific recommendations, he said: "I hope so, otherwise the peace process will reach a deadlock and we will reach a hell of a problem."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres told reporters the Sharm e-Sheikh conference "will deliver a message to the world that we will not permit terror to kill peace. Terror can kill a person; terror can't kill an idea."

Israel Television last night reported that the draft communiqué for the summit includes five pledges:

- The summit participants support the Middle East peace process and believe it will bring a just and durable peace.

- The participants are concerned by the recent wave of terror and condemn all forms of terror.

- The summit will stand firm against terror.

- The participants will increase cooperation between governments and police and security forces against terror.

- The participants will seek international agreement to bring and enforce legal actions against terrorists.

Peres told the Labor Party faction the conference should produce results, since funding, arms, and training for terror groups comes from abroad and foreign countries provide a safe haven for terrorists. He said an international intelligence network could be established as the answer to the terror network.

Describing the conference as "a very impressive show of solidarity with Israel," Peres said: "The aim is to show that just as terror has no borders, so the struggle against it can't stop at borders. This is a practical coalition against one of the most difficult phenomena which we have ever had to deal with."

"I never thought the peace process would be a picnic," he said, but repeated his belief that a comprehensive peace could be achieved by 2000 "if we stand strong."

The conference was subjected to sarcastic condemnation during the Likud Knesset faction meeting. Faction chairman Moshe Katsav suggested Peres send his campaign adviser Moshe Troonim to US President Clinton to get advice on how to get media cov-

(Continued on Page 9)

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ROSSMAN



Turkish president discusses terror with Peres

BATSHEVA TSUR

TURKEY and Israel are coordinating policy on combating terrorism in advance of the Sham e-Sheikh conference.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, who flew in yesterday for a four-day state visit, conferred with Prime Minister Shimon Peres for over an hour last night at Jerusalem's King David Hotel, handing him a list of suggestions on the subject of terror.

Peres suggested that the foreign ministers of both countries confer on the points raised when they meet today, a source said.

The discussion also covered a wide range of other issues including regional water problems and bilateral relations. No specific mention was made of Turkey's fight against the PKK, the Kurdish terror group, but Israel is not willing to change its traditional position of nonintervention on this point, the source said.

Peres also raised the role of Iran as a threat to regional peace, and Demirel and his advisers were reportedly in agreement on this point.

Peres flatly denied reports of involvement in Turkey's water disputes.

"We have no intention of interfering in the water issue between Turkey and Syria," Peres reportedly told Demirel.

Water should be viewed as an economic resource for Turkey, which could supply large areas of the region, Peres said.

Demirel said he hoped that Turkey would be able to provide Israel with 150 million cubic meters of water within two years. As for a pipeline, Peres suggested that the water experts sit down and discuss the feasibility.

Earlier Demirel, who is a hydro-

engineer by profession, had met with his old friend, former water commissioner Alharon Winer.

Peres and Demirel both expressed their pleasure at the progress made in bilateral economic, tourism, and academic ties, subjects which will be included in the four agreements to be signed at Beit Hamassi on Thursday at the conclusion of the visit. Trade between the two countries doubled in the past year to some \$450 million.

Speaking at Beit Hamassi soon after his arrival, Demirel called on Lebanon and Syria to join in the Middle East peace process and roundly condemned terror.

"These are turbulent times. Terrorist attacks are a threat to the stability in the region," he said. "We are opposed to all forms of terror and back peace in the region. We strongly condemn the recent attacks."

The Turkish people also shared the Israelis' "outrage and grief" at the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Demirel said. As a result of this, his state visit originally scheduled for November had been postponed until now.

Demirel noted that there are many similarities between the two countries, which form a solid basis for cooperation between them for the benefit of the entire region.

President Ezer Weizman, who welcomed Demirel, thanked him for coming here "in these troubled days." Noting how relations with Ankara had warmed since the state's early days, Weizman said that the ties seemed to be following the weather: "In the morning, it was cloudy, but now the sun is out."

Last night, Weizman hosted a festive state dinner for the guests.



The father of Shaker Sharahni, 2, mourns at his grave yesterday. The child died on Saturday en route from their home in Kalkilya to a hospital in Tulkarm after delays caused by roadblocks. (Chaled Zighari)

Food shortages in Gaza not as serious as claimed

JON IMMANUEL

GOVERNMENT coordinator in the territories Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabar was misquoted when speaking to the cabinet on Sunday of "near starvation," his spokesman said yesterday.

"The situation is difficult to serious. But the situation could reach that and then we will be under pressure to do something," spokesman Shlomo Dror said, adding that it is better to find a way to avoid that pressure.

Yesterday, Palestinians reported that flour has been diverted from UNRWA stores to ordinary shops. Bakers said they were rationing pita bread at 25 per family per day, while rice and other grains are also running short in shops. Yet perishables, like dairy products largely imported from Israel, are still available, if dwindling, and vegetables, grown in Gaza, are in good supply.

More Palestinians than before are blaming Hamas for the closure. One Palestinian poll puts the

number of opponents of the suicide bombings at 95% - but that could easily drop if the closure is prolonged and human suffering increases. PA officials are already calling the closure "collective punishment," implying that it has no real security value.

"No one legal worker has ever been accused of carrying out an attack in Israel," PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said at the opening of the Palestinian Council last week. Other delegates there complained of "humiliations."

However, Shaath overlooks the factor of human error, which has allowed suicide bombers to get through when legal workers or even just goods are transferred from Gaza to Israeli trucks.

Shaath demanded that if the Gaza-Israel border points are closed, then at least the Gaza-Egypt crossings should be opened.

But Dror noted that wanted fugitives have managed to penetrate regular border controls and weapons could come through with goods.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday that he hoped Israel would be called on to ease the closure at the anti-terrorism conference in Sham e-Sheikh.

However, the problem is not just what comes out of Gaza, but what goes in.

Military sources say the old Egyptian mines dug up in Sinai and used by suicide bombers may have been brought into Israel directly across the long, unfenced desert border with Egypt and then taken to Gaza, where they were made into bombs.

"But the problem of keeping terrorists out while letting legitimate workers in must be resolved. Medicines aren't really a problem

because they can be handled in small easily checked amounts, and they are being allowed through, despite reports of shortages, Dror said.

But tragedies occur. A two-month-old baby from Kalkilya, Shaker Sharahni, died on Saturday on his way to the hospital in Tulkarm, 15 kilometers away. His parents were stopped for 90 minutes at the exit from Kalkilya and then 60 minutes at the entrance to Tulkarm during a brief lull in the closure on West Bank towns and villages.

"There was a lack of coordination. Most ambulances get through," said Peter Lerner, the spokesman for the civil administration.

The IDF issued a statement expressing sorrow for the infant's death, but noted that ambulances do have to be detained and checked because, in the past, they have been used to transfer weapons.

IDF continues roundup of Hamas activists

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF carried out pre-dawn raids in Judean and Samarian villages throughout the territories yesterday, and arrested 29 Hamas activists in a sweep that has so far netted more than 200 suspects.

"The mission is to apprehend Hamas activists wherever they are in Judea and Samaria," said a battalion commander whose forces captured over a dozen Hamas suspects near Bethlehem.

"We'll be in every village. Wherever Hamas activists are hiding, we'll get to them. We are only at the beginning," said Lt. Col. Effy.

But unlike the Palestinian Police, who have arrested some of the top Hamas leaders in Israel's most-wanted list, the activists Israel is capturing are mostly low-level field operatives.

Nevertheless, the army is proud

of its actions and keen on showing journalists how it is hunting down Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants.

In the early dawn, a battalion of combat engineers in full battle gear, their grey berets replaced with helmets, moved into Husan, near Bethlehem.

Instead of the mnezzin calling villagers to morning prayers, a Border Police jeep rolled slowly through the silent streets blasting "Curfew, stay indoors" from its bullhorn.

Under the headlights of an army jeep, Lt. Reuven, a wiry bearded 22-year-old company commander, examined a list of wanted Hamas activists slated for arrest. He scratched their names

off, as his troops brought in the suspects, blindfolded and handcuffed.

As the sun rose over Bethlehem, some six kilometers to the east, he led a squad to a cement house on the outskirts of the village. Six soldiers took up positions around the house. They charged, closely followed by half a dozen television crews, knocking laundry off lines as they ran.

The soldiers banged on the door and moved in to arrest another Hamas suspect. Lt. Reuven led a sleepy, unshaven man from the house to be handed over for interrogation.

"Slowly, slowly the list is filling up," he said.

Similar raids took place in vil-

lages near Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus, and Ramallah, the IDF said. The raids also netted weapons and inflammatory material. At least three villages were placed under curfew. Israel lifted the closure in Judea and Samaria for 12 hours yesterday starting at 6 a.m. to allow Palestinians to stock up on food. The move will allow Palestinians to move from village to village, but it will still ban them from entering Israel, the army said.

Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabar, government coordinator in the territories, had warned the cabinet that the week-long curfew would have to be eased to release the pressure of limited food supplies.

CORRECTION
RONIT Lorch, whose photograph appeared on the front page of Sunday's paper, was participating in a memorial for the bus bombing victims, not in a politically sponsored event, as printed.

Suicide bombers launched from Gaza, says Peres

LIAT COLLINS

THE General Security Service has discovered that the recent Hamas attacks were deliberately launched from Area B villages, over which Israel has overriding responsibility, so as not to implicate the Palestinian Authority, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

Peres, speaking at a Labor Knesset faction meeting, said the Hamas operators worked from Gaza, using students in Judea and Samaria to recruit potential suicide bombers from Area B villages. The recent suicide bombers were dressed as soldiers and the explosives used were land mines removed from the Gaza Strip or Sinai.

According to Peres, Israel's strategy for dealing with terror can be broken down into three main categories: actions by Israel, such as the closure, curfews, demolishing terrorists' homes, detentions, and separation measures; actions by the Palestinian Authority, such as arresting and disarming Hamas members; and mobilizing world support.

Peres came out strongly in favor of the demolition of terrorists' homes. "In fact, we have no choice but to make the father responsible for the son and to tell the father that if someone from your house goes out to commit a suicide [attack], don't think just he will go to paradise. Your house is in danger. It will be sealed; it will be damaged."

He rejected opposition claims that he is using the police and security forces for his own purposes. "The police don't belong to a party; the army doesn't belong to a party; and the GSS doesn't belong to a party."

He compared the situation in Israel to that in France and Britain where terror attacks and the response to them are considered to be matters beyond political concerns.

Ayyash family petitions against home destruction

EVELYN GORDON

THE family of Yihye Ayyash, "the Engineer," yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the demolition of his house, as the court continued hearing a series of petitions by terrorists' families against the destruction of their homes.

Meanwhile, the state told the court that Mohiadin Sharif, who gave suicide bomber Suifan Jabarin the explosives he used to blow up the No. 26 bus in Jerusalem last August, is a "killing bomb" who is still actively recruiting additional suicide bombers.

The court was hearing a petition by Sharif's family against the demolition of their house in Beit Hamasa.

It also yesterday began hearing a petition by family of Abed el-Majid Dudin, who recruited Jabarin, against the destruction of their house.

The previous day, the court had heard petitions from the Jabarin family; the family of Labib Azem of Kafir Karyut, who committed the Ramat Gan bus bombing in July; and the family of Yinan Seceder of Abu Dis, who recruited the terrorists responsible for two attacks in late 1994, the shooting attack in Jerusalem's Nahalat Shiva neighborhood and the suicide bombing opposite Hagai Meir Ha'uma in Jerusalem.

Three other petitions must still be heard before the court issues its ruling on all eight. One from

the family of Ibrahim Sarahna, who committed the Ashkelon suicide attack two weeks ago; one from the family of Majid Abu Warda, who committed the first No. 18 bus bombing in Jerusalem; and the one from Ayyash's family.

The Ayyash petition, filed by Ayyash's uncle, Ibrahim, charged that the army's usual argument - that demolishing his family's house is the only way to deter a suicide bomber, who has no qualms about losing his life - does not apply in this case. Ayyash's "liquidation," allegedly at Israel's hands, was sufficient to send a deterrent message, the petition argued.

The petition also argued that Ayyash never lived in the family residence in Rafat, near Tulkarm, because it was built at around the time he was put on the wanted list and went into hiding.

Justices Guriel Bach, Mishael Cheshin and Dalila Dorner spent some four hours hearing the Sharif family's petition.

Even before the state's announcement about the continuing dangers posed by Sharif, however, the court appeared skeptical of attorney Lea Tsemel's arguments.

They rejected Tsemel's claim that Sharif, because he had committed no attacks himself, should be treated more leniently than the actual bombers.

Knesset rushes to clear shelf before election recess

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday held a legislative marathon in an attempt to clear the backlog of bills before the pre-election recess scheduled to begin on Sunday.

Among the bills which passed second and third reading, was one reading the ban on showing candidates on national television from 30 days before the elections to 21.

There were more MKs around for the vote on the first reading of three basic laws. The debate pitted religious MKs against Meretz. The three new basic laws are legal rights, freedom of expression and association, and social rights.

Religious MKs, who fear they would be used by the courts to overrule religious legislation, demanded a no-confidence motion which would delay the vote. Deputy Speaker Anat Maor (Meretz), whose party fervently supports them, refused to accept the no-confidence motion, saying it should have been filed two weeks ago when the discussion on the hills took place.

The religious parties, however, did succeed in postponing the vote on the second and third reading of a bill allowing public associations with a special permit to handle adoptions abroad. MKs from religious parties, concerned about conversions, filed a no-confidence motion. The motion is scheduled to be heard next Tuesday, at a special plenum session before the elections.

Lebanon fighting continues

DAVID RUDGE

HEAVY fighting continued in southern Lebanon yesterday, as Staff Sgt. Erez David, 19, of Caesarea, killed in Sunday's roadside bomb blast in the security zone, was laid to rest in Israel.

Senior Israeli sources expect an intensification of attacks by Hizbullah, Amal, and Palestinian rejectionist groups in light of tomorrow's international anti-terror conference in Sham e-Sheikh.

Of the four soldiers who were wounded in the same incident, Yevgeny Robstein is still in very critical condition in the neurosurgery intensive care unit of Haifa's Rambam Hospital. He was the driver of the command car that was blown apart.

Hospital director Prof. Moshé Revach said another soldier is in serious but stable condition after undergoing extensive surgery for abdominal injuries. He said the other two soldiers are improving after undergoing surgery for shrapnel wounds to their arms.

Five other soldiers who were wounded in a similar Hizbullah roadside bomb trap last Monday - in which four of their comrades were killed - are still being treated in Rambam.

Revach said two of them are still in serious condition suffering from brain injuries, and the other three are making good progress.

Yesterday's fighting broke out as it did the day before with a 7 a.m. mortar barrage, this time by Amal, against IDF and SLA positions in the Barasheet and Beit Yahoun areas in the western sector of the zone. There were no casualties, and IDF and SLA gunners responded by hitting suspected terrorist targets north of the zone with artillery and tank fire. IAF helicopter gunships were also in action and came under RPG and light weapons fire, but were not hit.

Later in the morning, Hizbullah gunmen opened fire at IDF and SLA posts in the Beaufort Castle and Al Tahr hill range regions with mortars, anti-tank missiles, and machine guns. Again there were no casualties, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Meanwhile, IDF bulldozers knocked down the olive groves where the fatal roadside bomb was planted in Kila' village, a few hundred meters from the Fatmah crossing point near Metulla. Widespread searches continued for the perpetrators of Sunday's attack and the one last Monday. Lebanese radio stations reported that IDF troops were carrying out intensive house-to-house searches in Huleh, a Shi'ite village in the zone, apparently in a hunt for collaborators.

213 Israelis killed since Oslo

PALESTINIANS attacks on Israelis have killed 213 people since the September 1993 Oslo accords, compared with 99 in the same amount of time before the accords, according to Peace Watch.

Fatal attacks dropped from 80 to 74, of which Hamas has perpetrated 37 and Islamic Jihad 10. The Popular and Democratic Fronts committed most of the others. Fatah has stopped attacks since mid-1974. The number of Palestinians killed in clashes with the IDF has dropped steadily in each six-month period since Oslo, from more than 60 to 11.

Jon Immanuel

Zionist Organization of America offers its condolences to the family of

ARIEL WEINSTEIN

Morton A. Klein Michael Orbach
President Chairman of the Board

The Honorary Officers, Directors and Staff of the Joint Israel Appeal of Great Britain and Ireland extend sincere condolences to

Yaacov Gilead on the passing of his dear wife

SHOSHANA

Our heartfelt condolences to the Gilead family on the passing of their beloved

SHOSHANA

Mendel and Jill Kaplan Sharon, Alan, David, Oren, Romi
חוקים יום יום אתם בתוך שאר אנשי ציון וירושלים

Clinton visit to snarl Jerusalem traffic

Analysts asked HIV among EU

regulating ban expected to

מקראות תורה

Clinton visit to snarl Jerusalem traffic

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE are taking unprecedented security precautions to secure the visit of US President Bill Clinton tomorrow afternoon and Thursday, closing down roads, including the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway, and employing thousands of policemen in an effort to ensure the visit passes quietly.

In Jerusalem alone, 3,500 policemen are being assigned to duties related to the visit. Yesterday, Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit finalized the security plan, code-named "Operation Song."

Police warned that traffic in Jerusalem is likely to be snarled tomorrow afternoon and Thursday morning, when Clinton will be in the capital. He is then scheduled to go to Tel Aviv to visit the site of the Dizengoff attack, before flying back to the US.

The visit will be Clinton's third while in office. He came here in 1994, and then again last November for the funeral of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Police said more manpower is being used for this visit because of the sensitive security situation.

Police plan to shut down the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway in both directions tomorrow afternoon, when the presidential entourage drives from Ben-Gurion Airport to the capital. The highway will be closed again the next day when Clinton goes to Tel Aviv, then the airport.

In Jerusalem, the roads the presidential entourage uses will be shut down, and parking forbidden. Clinton is to stay at the Laromme Hotel, and parking will also be forbidden in the area around it.

Police will announce exact road closings.



New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert share a laugh over their favorite Israeli English-language newspaper during a ride on a No. 18 bus. (Ariel Jerolimski)

NYC Mayor Giuliani rides terror bus

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

NEW YORK Mayor Rudolph Giuliani rode Jerusalem's No. 18 bus yesterday, paid a condolence call at a high school that lost four students in the suicide bombings, and said Israel must put its security above all.

"The first order of business for any government, for a democracy, is security," Giuliani said. "Everything else follows after that."

He made the statement following a helicopter tour of Jerusalem and a briefing atop Nebi Samwil by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran.

Giuliani said he came to Israel to show solidarity with the Jewish state and to express sympathy for the victims of the latest terrorist attacks.

He began his day by riding the No. 18 bus at precisely the same hour that suicide bombers hlew themselves up, killing 44 people on February 25 and March 3.

"We're doing this in memory of the people who lost their lives," Giuliani said, laying wreaths at the sites of the two attacks on Jaffa Road.

The bus was crowded with journalists and security guards, but Giuliani managed to speak to a few passengers.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Giuliani expressed the "support and admiration of the people of my city and America."

Peres replied, "We can feel that you share our pain."

Later, Giuliani visited the Beit Hinuch High School, which lost four students in the bus bombings. "I'm here to offer the support, sympathy, and prayers of the people of New York City," Giuliani told 11th graders.

Giuliani was to visit the site of the Dizengoff bombing in Tel Aviv before departing for home early this morning.

Shortly after arriving for a two-day visit, Giuliani met with families of the victims of the bus attacks.

"I expressed to them the sympathy and condolences of all the people in New York and in America, how we were [as] shocked as if it happened in New York City," Giuliani said.

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu told him in a meeting yesterday that Yasser Arafat had to be pushed to take stronger actions against Hamas terrorists.

"Rather than embracing him we should put pressure on him," Netanyahu said.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who accompanied Giuliani throughout the day, praised him for coming "to share in our pain and our hope."

"I take back to the US and New York a better understanding of the difficulties you have in defending yourselves," Giuliani said. "I continue to be impressed by the strength of the Israeli people."

MDA to hold sanctions today

JUDY SIEGEL

MAGEN David Adom staffers will today launch sanctions - including a halt in the collection of blood - to press the government for additional funds so professional medics will accompany the driver/medic in every ambulance.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh has proposed that soldiers be trained to serve this purpose, but the Histadrut and the MDA workers' union argue they would be cheap labor and less qualified than professional medics. The union said it would agree to the use of soldiers only operating in

ambulances in the territories but not inside Israel.

In addition to a halt in blood collections around the country, MDA workers will not give courses or take patients from hospitals until further notice.

Union chief Eli Ben-Khassous said the staff is "embittered" over the government's "ignoring of MDA's basic financial needs as a national rescue service. On the one hand, they praise us for our skills and devotion, and on the other they pay no attention to our

serious financial straits and their implications."

A general meeting of MDA staffers will be held at noon today, and ambulances from around the country will park outside MDA's headquarters in Tel Aviv. However, enough vehicles will remain in their stations to handle emergencies.

Sneh, who has ministerial responsibility for MDA, has said he would ask to discuss MDA's situation with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Finance

Minister Avraham Shohat, but a date has not yet been announced.

The MDA governing council met yesterday to express its gratitude to staffers for their "devoted and efficient work" during the recent wave of terror attacks.

Meanwhile, American Red Magen David for Israel, which helps provide funds for Magen David Adom, has pledged 75 new ambulances and medical supplies and equipment worth over \$3.4 million. ARMDI president Dr. Robert Sadoff said these were "in the pipeline" and should reach Israel in the very near future.

Journalists asked not to publish data on HIV among Ethiopian immigrants

JUDY SIEGEL

HEALTH, absorption, education, and immigration authorities asked all health reporters and other journalists - in 1991 - not to publish anything on the relatively high prevalence of HIV among Ethiopian immigrants.

This was disclosed yesterday by Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai, the Health Ministry's AIDS coordinator, at a session of the Navon Committee investigating Magen David Adom's policy on blood donations from Ethiopian Jews.

Ben-Yishai said that all participants were warned to preserve secrecy on the issue so as not to stigmatize the immigrants. "The entire journalistic community joined in the effort" to prevent publication of the much-increased risk (50 times that of the general population), Ben-Yishai said.

He added that representatives of the Ethiopian community had attended this meeting and were asked for suggestions on how to increase awareness of HIV prevention within the community. The community representatives, Ben-Yishai said, including journalists with Israel Radio's Amharic section, asked that the information

campaign be "controlled and careful," because the immigrants were "not aware of AIDS and that if this fact became known, they would not cooperate."

He added that in August 1992, health minister Haim Ramon thought the policy of secrecy was "exaggerated" and called on the Ethiopian community to cooperate in a special AIDS information campaign. Ben-Yishai said that some two dozen Ethiopians had infected their partners with HIV, even though they had been informed how to prevent transmission.

A few months ago, *Ma'ariv* investigative reporter Ronel Fisher disclosed that Magen David Adom had been accepting blood donations from Ethiopian immigrants (mostly soldiers), then destroying them without using them (except in rare cases). Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said he was unaware of this policy.

A local and international uproar resulted, with a sometimes-violent demonstration by tens of thousands of Ethiopian immigrants,

charges that MDA and Israel are "racist," and demands for the dismissal of MDA blood services director Dr. Amnon Ben-David.

Prof. Baruch Modan, a Tel Aviv University epidemiologist and former Health Ministry director-general, said it had been an error not to tell all Ethiopian immigrants from the start of the higher risk of HIV in the community.

Dr. Moshe Mashiah, another former Health Ministry director-general and now director of Wolfson Hospital, said he "never found" any written instructions on what to do with the donated blood of Ethiopian immigrants, but that the ministry had a general policy not to allow the use of blood taken from high-risk groups.

The director of MDA's central blood bank, Dr. Eilat Shinar, said that blood from Ethiopians and other high-risk groups could be very useful for research purposes. Dr. Shuila Bar-Shani, Ben-David's predecessor who is now retired and reportedly was the first to decide that Ethiopian donors would not be told their donations were being destroyed, testified behind closed doors.

Israeli debate team wins first prize

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

WHILE the tone of arguments among the Israeli public has been rising to overheated levels, Yael Rosen, 13, of Kochav Yat, recently showed that there's hope for the art of civilized debate by capturing first prize in a debating society contest in Greece.

Facing members of debating societies from countries around the world, Israel's Siah Vasig debating society - with only two weeks' preparation after its coach quit for lack of funds - nevertheless did the country proud.

Competing in the oral interpretation category against 64 other participants, Rosen's interpretation of Shel Silverstein's children's story *The Giving Tree* - a selection she made with the new coach, Pam Higer - earned her first prize.

minister Yitzhak Rabin's home last year. But Eskin denied planning the ritual to put a curse on Peres, arguing that he "is only helping the right wing, because of his inability to fight terror."

As Eskin, 36, of Jerusalem, began delivering a political speech in court, Judge Avraham Beiser stopped him, allowing him only 20 seconds to state his case.

In rejecting the appeal, Beiser said the *pulsa denura* ceremony was an act of sedition and encouraged acts of violence.

Would-be curser's appeal of remand denied

RAINE MARCUS

AVIGDOR Eskin, arrested last week as he stepped on a plane bound for Russia for a *pulsa denura* ceremony to put a curse on Prime Minister Shimon Peres, appealed his remand in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. However his appeal was rejected outright, with the court ruling that the ceremony was seditious.

Last Thursday, Eskin was remanded by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court for seven days. Police had said he had also conducted such a ritual outside prime

Bill regulating banks' outside activities expected to move forward

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset was expected to approve a government bill limiting banks' holdings in non-bank companies for first reading late last night.

The bill, based on the Brodet Committee recommendations, states that in four years' time, banks will be allowed to own no more than 20 percent of any non-bank company.

One year later, the limit will be reduced to 18%, and the following year, the ceiling goes down to 16%.

The bill also says that banks can invest no more than 25% of their capital in non-bank companies. Of this, only 5% can be in companies that do not operate in Israel, and another 5% can only be in companies of which the bank owns less than 5%.

The remaining 15% can be invested freely, within the limits stated above.

In addition, the bill states that no bank will be able to control more than one major non-banking conglomerate.

Thus Bank Hapoalim, for instance, will be required by the bill to sell off its holdings in either Clal or Koor within four years.

Another important provision of the bill forbids banks from appointing the chairman, managing director or chief financial officer of any non-bank institution.

Similarly, the bill states that a majority of the members of mutual funds' investment committees must be representatives

of the public rather than the banks, and requires investment decisions to be made only by these public representatives.

This is meant to prevent the banks from forcing their mutual funds to favor investments in the banks' own companies.

Finally, the bill states that banks cannot hold a minority stake in other banking conglomerates, to prevent conflicts of interest.

It also eliminates several traditional classifications such as mortgage or investment banks, replacing them with only three types of banks: regular banks, business promotion banks and financial institutions.

The goal of this change, according to the Treasury, is to give banks more freedom to branch out into different financial activities.

MK Weinstein buried in J'lem

LIKUD MK Ariel Weinstein, who died of a heart attack late Saturday night at age 64, was buried yesterday afternoon. Hundreds of relatives, friends and public figures attended the funeral.

Weinstein, a property assessor and journalist by profession, was first elected to the Knesset in 1982. Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu eulogized Weinstein, saying that beyond his love and devotion to the Land of Israel, he was always concerned with the welfare of the individual. Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss said he was "one of the most active MKs on social and economic issues and had become an expert on those topics." (Itm)

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TNUVA

Lebanon fighting continues...
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Russian soldiers check the documents of civilians returning to Grozny. The stringent security measures are the result of fierce fighting between the government and Chechen rebels. (Reuters)

Rebel fighters attack Russian troops

GROZNY (AP) — Small groups of Chechen rebels battled with Russian troops yesterday as separatist fighters continued their retreat from the Chechen capital.

The entire city was without water and power following four days of fierce fighting during which the rebels destroyed water pumping stations, power plants and set an oil refinery ablaze.

The Russian government had claimed victory over a huge rebel force that attacked Grozny last week in the worst fighting in the city in a year, but groups of separatist fighters harassed the Russians on the outskirts of the Chechen capital yesterday.

Russian troops in helicopter gunships pursued Chechen guerrillas in the woods on the edge of the city, and fighting was reported yesterday in at least three districts of Grozny.

Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, who was in Grozny yesterday, said a rebel force of about 1,000 attacked Grozny last week and 300 rebel fighters were killed and 350 wounded. The death toll

was roughly double earlier reported figures.

The Interior Ministry said yesterday that 170 Russian troops had been killed and more than 100 wounded, the Interfax news agency said. Kulikov said 79 Interior Ministry troops and Chechen policemen were killed, but gave no death toll for the Russian army.

As throughout the 15-month-old war, many civilians were killed in the running battles. The Chechen government had said about 100 civilians lost their lives.

Shamil Basayev, a rebel commander who was reported to have led the assault on Grozny, threatened to carry out a series of terrorist attacks in the neighboring region of Dagestan, NTV reported.

Basayev, who led a hostage-taking raid on the southern Russian city of Budyonovsk last summer, spoke in a television broadcast in Grozny, the report said. He singled out a power plant in the Dagestani town of Khasavyurt for a rebel attack.

Meanwhile, in western Chechnya, Russian Interior Ministry troops were allowing civilians to return to the town of Sernovodsk, the scene of heavy fighting last week.

However, few of the estimated 14,000 refugees who fled Sernovodsk were reported to be returning, with most remaining in neighboring Ingushetia until the situation becomes more settled.

President Boris Yeltsin sent troops into Chechnya in December 1994 in an attempt to quickly crush separatist defiance and reassert Moscow's control over the breakaway republic.

In Moscow, several dozen Communist demonstrators set up a picket they say will last until the end of March to protest the war.

The war has dragged on and an estimated 30,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed.

Yeltsin has promised soon to unveil a plan for ending the war before the June elections. But the latest clashes cast doubt on the possibility of a peaceful settlement anytime soon.

Cambodia's stability at risk as king's health worsens

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Government officials said yesterday they feared for Cambodia's stability if King Norodom Sihanouk's worsening health makes him abdicate.

The king was the main factor in national unity, said Minister of Information Ieng Mouly. His departure would deprive Cambodians of their strongest moral influence and could endanger the nation's political future, Mouly said.

"Only King Sihanouk at this time can play his role of achieving national reconciliation," said Om Yen Tieng, an adviser to Second Premier Hun Sen.

Sihanouk, 73, returned to Phnom Penh yesterday from Beijing, where he recently underwent medical tests by Chinese doctors.

"The doctors said I am sick, but I feel all right myself," Sihanouk said on his arrival in Phnom Penh.

On Friday, the king informed his son, First Premier Norodom Ranariddh, that doctors diagnosed him as having health problems — advanced hardening of the arteries, a brain lesion and a high level of fat in his liver.

The ailments will one day inevitably prevent him from serving his nation and his people, he told

Ranariddh in a faxed letter sent from Beijing.

"When this day arrives, I ask that you, venerated one, and our people give me your indulgence and compassion."

Sihanouk had a mild stroke in 1992 and also suffers from cancer and diabetes, although he says these are in remission.

The king has suggested several times in the past that he might step down, but Cambodian officials worried that his deteriorating health made this latest warning more serious.

Sihanouk first became king in 1941, at age 19, under the French regime then in power. He stepped down in 1955 to form a political party, steering his newly independent state between two Cold War camps to neutrality.

A US-backed coup in 1970 sent him to exile in China. He reluctantly joined rebels led by the Communist Khmer Rouge and returned when the group seized power five years later. The Khmer Rouge soon turned against him, and he went into exile again after invading Vietnamese forces freed him from house arrest in 1978.

Apartheid bosses on trial

DURBAN (Reuters) — Apartheid-era security bosses and their subordinates pleaded not guilty to murder yesterday, denying they sent death squads to gun down the black opponents of white rule.

South Africa's former defense minister Magnus Malan, 66, and 19 others — generals, white ex-soldiers, a vice-admiral, a police colonel, six black policemen and a senior member of the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party — denied all charges in court, responding in either Afrikaans or Zulu.

The trial is the most significant attempt since the first all-race polls in 1994 to judge key figures who fought a bitter rear-guard action for white rule in the 1980s.

"The prosecution will cast a shaft of judicial light to a corner of our history which has hitherto been dark and secret. That process has now begun. It is a process of truth and justice," provincial attorney-general Tim McNally told the Supreme Court in the Indian Ocean port of Durban.

The defendants stand accused of 13 murders, four attempted murders and conspiracy to murder the supporters and allies of President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The trial of Malan and the others over a massacre nine years ago linked to secret plans to crush black opposition resumed after having been postponed for a week when defense lawyers said they needed time to study the charges and to further consult with the accused.

McNally will argue they are guilty of the murders of 13 people, five of them children aged between four and 10, in an attack on the home of a supporter of Mandela's then-hamed ANC in KwaZulu-Natal province in 1987.

The state accuses Malan, who has leukemia, and 12 other former security force officers of involvement in a covert operation which resulted in the attack, alleged to have been carried out by six black policemen, who are also in

the dock.

The 13 people killed in the pre-dawn raid died in bursts of automatic rifle-fire. The target was a youth leader, Victor Ntuli, 22, who was not at his father's home at the time and survived. He was killed by assassins in 1990.

In the dock with Malan, defense minister from 1980 to 1991, is Inkatha deputy secretary-general Zakhele "M.Z." Khumalo, who was a personal assistant to party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Buthelezi, home affairs minister in Mandela's government, is unlikely to be called as a witness, despite frequent references to him in state papers.

The state alleges the military trained 200 men for a covert "offensive unit" to combat a perceived ANC threat as part of a programme of support for the conservative Inkatha.

McNally will also try to prove Malan and the others conspired to murder supporters of the United Democratic Front, which operated during the 1980s while the ANC was banned.

Ex-South Korean presidents tried for mutiny

SEOUL (Reuters) — Boored from the public gallery and taunted with a cry of "sons of bitches", two former South Korean presidents appeared side-by-side in a Seoul court yesterday to face charges of mutiny and sedition.

Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae-woo, former military generals, face a possible death sentence.

Dressed in light blue prison uniforms, both sat straight-backed in the front row of the defendants' gallery of the Seoul District Criminal Court along with 14 other

former senior military officers.

Chun is accused of mutiny for masterminding a 1979 coup that gave him and his protégé Roh a grip on the presidency for 13 years from 1980 to 1993.

Roh is charged with helping Chun stage the putsch that followed the assassination of military strongman Park Chung-hee, who was their mentor. The two have also been indicted for sedition in connection with a 1980 army massacre of pro-democracy protesters in Kwangju, in which

200 people were killed by official court.

Roh's defense lawyer scoffed at the charges, saying the issue of the coup and events leading up to the Kwangju incident had been put before voters, who elected Roh president in 1987.

Dozens of protesters screaming obscenities and demanding heavy punishment scuffled with riot police outside the court.

Inside, an ugly brawl erupted when the father of a student beaten to death by riot police in 1991 yelled: "Chun Doo Hwan, Roh Tae-woo, sons of bitches."

Kang Min-jo, 54, was reacting to a show of camaraderie by the two smiling ex-presidents, who shook hands, bowed to each other and exchanged greetings before the noon recess.

One of Chun's sons seated nearby in the public gallery lunged at Kang and was soon joined by other Chun relatives and supporters who punched and kicked Kang to the ground. News reports said Kang was taken to hospital.

Rugby captain: I kept seeing Diana out of stubbornness

LONDON (AP) — Retiring England rugby captain Will Carling says sheer stubbornness made him continue his ill-fated friendship with Princess Diana last year.

Carling's wife, Julia, a television show host and a publicist, objected and the couple separated in September after one year of marriage.

"If I'm really honest about the whole thing, and without making a big deal out of it, it was my stubbornness," Carling, 30, was quoted as saying in a Radio Times

interview on yesterday. "It wasn't very clever."

"Part of me thought, 'Why can't I just be her friend?' I thought, 'Why in hell should I be told how to live my life?'"

He added ruefully, "I suppose I have been, though."

Carling and Diana reportedly met several times last summer at a swanky London gym and Carling was photographed visiting her Kensington Palace home.

He refused to say yesterday whether he had a romance with the princess.

Julia Carling, in a magazine interview out today, said her marriage started collapsing when news broke of Carling's friendship with Diana.

"It is the worst nightmare for one's marriage to crumble so publicly," Mrs. Carling, 31, was quoted as saying in *The Tatler*.

Britain's watchdog Press Complaints Commission recently rejected a complaint by Mrs. Carling that newspapers invaded her personal privacy. The commission found that she had encouraged coverage.

Jewish leaders protest plans for supermarket next to Auschwitz

KNESSET Speaker Shevah Weiss, a Holocaust survivor, has sent a letter to Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski calling on him to use his powers to thwart plans to build a shopping and entertainment center next to Auschwitz. "Auschwitz is a black hole in the annals of humanity and a shocking, historic monument in memory of millions of people who were slaughtered by the fascists because of their nationality, race and religion," the letter said.

"The awesome holiness of this place must be preserved; the feelings of millions of survivors of the dark Nazi days, and those of enlightened people in Poland and throughout the world who see in Auschwitz an eternal cry of revulsion against evil and horror, must not be trampled," Weiss wrote.

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

In Europe, Auschwitz survivors and Jewish leaders are protesting plans to open the mini-mall across the street from the Nazi death camp.

The Polish developer has said he sees "nothing wrong" with the idea.

"How can that desecrate the memory of this place — it's outside the museum's area," said Janusz Marszalek, who with a German partner plans to open a restaurant and fast-food stand in early June to serve the thousands of tourists who visit Auschwitz each year.

A supermarket and clothing and textile stores would open by the end of the year, he said.

Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, a former inmate now head of the Auschwitz museum council, said he was disturbed by the idea and considered the backers guilty of "thoughtlessness."

But the director of the Auschwitz museum, Jerzy Wroblewski, defended the plans as "in no way harmful" and accused the media of misrepresenting the project.

Marszalek said he planned to renovate an old factory and warehouses already standing across the street from the main Auschwitz visitors' center, a red-brick building in the oldest part of the camp.

Wroblewski said the renovation work has already begun. He said he supported the plan as a way to "bring order in the huffer zone" around Auschwitz.

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Sting is now older, wiser and duller

NEW RELEASES TIRZAH AGASSI

STING, a legend in his own lifetime, is middle-aged and content.

Gone is the angry young punk, but also gone, unfortunately, are the great hooks (remember "Free, free, set them free?") of his heyday.

Technically the album is as finely tuned as ever, mixing musical styles from R&B to Brazilian to Country, and each song does manage to say something relevant.

The album's final song, "Lithium Sunset," is about a Brazilian shaman's observation that watching the sunset actually beams the chemical lithium into

the brain. Lithium is prescribed for manic depressives in order to even out their mood swings.

INNER City Blues, The Music of Marvin Gaye (Helicon) is a tribute to the late, great soul singer and composer, featuring many of today's noteworthy followers.

What stands out most as Bono covers "Save The Children," Neneh Cherry does "Trouble Man" and Madonna sings "I Want You," backed by Massive Attack, is how little the music has dated.

The problems Gaye wrote about are still as relevant as they were in '71 when he released his masterpiece What's Going On.

Though there are plenty of fine performances here, from Nona Gaye's moving "Inner City Blues" to Boyz II Men's harmonious "Let's Get It On," nobody creates something new, and none of the would-be angels quite wrings your heart the way Marvin did.

Nonetheless, the first half of the album works well.



Rock elder Sting's mellow new album 'Mercury Falling,' lacks much of the creative sharpness of his earlier work.

It's only on the sixth cut when Lisa Stansfield gets coy with "Just To Keep You Satisfied" that momentum drops. Then Stevie Wonder turns "Stubborn Kind of

Fellow" into a punchy Stevie Wonder song, breaking the mellow mood.

The earnest Sounds of Blackness try to pick up the pieces with "God Is Love (Mercy,

Mercy Me)," but don't have the talent to touch the original.

The idea of a tribute was a good one, and the album is not bad at all, but one would do better to get a hold of "Motown Classics"

What's Going On (Helicon), still the greatest soul opera that this reviewer has ever heard.

What becomes a legend most? The masterpieces that made them a legend in the first place.

Gesher crosses a bridge

A VILLAGE

By Yehoshua Sobol. Direction, Yvonne Aryeh. Set, Alexander Lissenski. Costumes, Anna Krasheva. Lighting, Ronit Eshkol. Music, Avi Binayahu. Puppetry, Esther Pecker. Hebrew title, Kfar. At the Gesher Theater, Old Jaffa Port.

Yossi — Yisrael Demidov
Ami — Mark Iwanir
Hahn — Leonid Kanievski
Rivka — Levana Finkelstein
Leah — Nelly Gushava
Yitzhak — Boris Ochsanov

WITH this production, focused on a local theme and played in the original Hebrew, Gesher finally establishes itself as Hebrew theater in every sense.

Sobol's present work, a dramatized remembrance of things past more than a play proper, oozes nostalgic charm but little more. It progresses loosely in fits and starts through a series of disjointed episodes depicting village life in Eretz Yisrael during World War II.

THEATER REVIEW NAOMI DOUDAI

clever direction concept.

The dialogue, on the other hand, is lyrical, full of laughter and tears, as are the characters. First and foremost is Yisrael Demidov's Yossi. The ingenious smiling child narrator is one of his most brilliant roles.

But out of 20 parts, there are another dozen that are almost as outstanding. The virtuosity of the actors is again on display. Boris Ochsanov, Leonid Kanievski, Nelly Gushava, Roland Chayavolski, Vladimir Chelmitski, Vladimir Vorobyov, Klementi Kamanko and Marc Iwanir are strong in supporting parts.

This is the second time that sabra actors play side by side with the original Russian cast. Their inclusion seals the sense of Hebrew authenticity that is the outstanding quality of this play. Efrat Ben-Tzur (Dassi) makes an enchanting village belle, Levana Finkelstein (Rivka) is diverting as the eternally fussy mother as is Dorit Lev-Ari (the Goat). Adi Etzion's singing study of Dankeshone, the bizarre yetke bag lady, is one of the gems of the evening.

VOYAGEUR IMMOBILE

Compagnie Philippe Genty (France). At the

Haifa Municipal Theater.

IN 1990, Genty brought to the Israel Festival a collage of magic, mystery and visual imagery that was the quintessence of Gallic spirituality, ingenuity and wit. This time around, his theatrical esthetic and enameled elegance - if still charged with poetry, imagination, vision and fantasy - get bogged down in the esoteric metaphors of a genre that, like much contemporary painting, is easier to define than to digest.

The Voyageur Immobile plunges the company into a surreal walkabout traversing air, water, fire and sand in a kind of Dada extravaganza. It is accompanied by multilingual script and sound effects, optical illusions, puppetry and scenic metamorphoses using gargantuan excesses of shredded plastic, miles of undulating phosphorescent material, sophisticated lighting and nightmarish cloning gimmicks.

The trend is from precious to popular, a departure from the essentially exquisite to the brashly bizarre, that snacks of showbiz panache.

This applies only to part one, which is totally theatrical. The final episode is dance at its most contemporary, with pure choreography and faultless execution. It amounts to an artistic achievement probably unsurpassed on the dance stages of our day.

Spanish dance fest feels right at home in Tel Aviv

DANCE REVIEW DORA SOWDEN

HOW Spanish dance has taken root in Israel was blazoned at the gala ending of the "three days of flamenco" at the Suzanne Dellal Theater in Tel Aviv (March 9). This year marked the second such competition.

For one thing no less a star than Cristina Hoyos came, not only to teach and judge but also to perform. For another, she was partnered by four striking male dancers - called the Trajana company - and by two strong traditional singers and two guitarists, who all coordinated their dazzling performance as to the manner born.

Even those who remember Hoyos dancing with Gades in Blood Wedding or when she came with her own company, may have been taken by surprise and also delighted when she showed that all her skills and power, her fire and flame, her "duende" both in solo or in partnership, remained as strong as

ever - and all wonderfully timed with the dancers and the musicians.

It was a night to remember - generous in its length, simulated by a packed, highly enthusiastic audience, and also rich in dance.

BOTH the Tel Aviv Dance Theater (directed by Boni Pia) and the Jerusalem Dance Theater (directed by Tamara Mielenik) gave anniversary performances last week: one at the Suzanne Dellal Theater (March 2), to celebrate the group's first year in being, and the other at the Gerard Bebar Theater (in Jerusalem, March 6) for its 10th anniversary.

It would have been pleasant to say that the Tel Aviv performance of live works by five choreographers was a five-star

event, but only two were beyond a "good try" grade of workshop level.

Pia's Second Chance was notable for poetic, innovative movement of unusual cloquence. Noa Dar's duet for two frolicsome young dancers was both charming and witty.

Worth developing further was choreographer Iris Lanu's adventure with a clothes line - an interesting idea, but one in need of much more development.

The Jerusalem repeat of Coppelia, cleverly adapted by Yacov Lifschitz to the needs and size of the company, had professional dancers in its leading roles - the bright and perky Swanilda and the rather weak-minded Franz.

However, even though in the days of Arthur St. Leon's immortal ballet the use of mime was paramount, here the performers overdid the use of mime.

Jerusalem spectacular is planned for June

The walls will come alive with the sound of music - and much more - on June 24. Michele Legrand, Charles Aznavour, Claude Lelouch and Pinchas Zukerman are just a few of the internationally renowned stars who will gather by the walls of Jerusalem's Old City, in a special multimedia outdoor event titled "Touching the Wall - Touching the Light."

with 30 young violinists from all over the world. Shlomo Gronich will conduct 500 singers and more surprises are still in store.

Another highlight will be a 40-minute fireworks display, choreographed by Italian Giovanni Panzera. Three thousand tickets, at \$100-\$300 a pop, will go on sale. A non-paying audience of 100,000 is also expected.

Proceeds go to the ongoing project of lighting major Jerusalem sites and towards the benefit of IDF soldiers.

'Cycles' is a sound choice

CONCERT ROUNDUP

refreshing vitality Lutheran Redeemer Church, Jerusalem, March 2. Ury Eppstein

With the 14-minute Cycles (Ma'agalim, 1986), Israeli composer Rachel Galinne found a perfect and convincingly logical form.

Galinne found a perfect and convincingly logical form. The piece offers a broad spectrum of original "events," as well as brilliant and imaginative orchestration.

Alternating between short, razor-sharp orchestral outbursts and sustained yet extremely active sound planes, Cycles creates a steady build-up of tension, relieved only with the cleverly delayed "final bang."

It's highly satisfying that the IPO and the Austrian conductor Theodor Guschlbauer decided to confront our conservative audience with such a daring and unconventional, contemporary work.

To switch from Galinne to Chopin was rather difficult and had it not been for the truly ravishing beauty of Nikolai Demidenko's interpretation (he played the Second Piano Concerto) we would undoubtedly have had great difficulty adjusting.

The moment he completed the first Chopinesque arabesques of the first movement we were captured by such a sweet and caressing lyricism that the 30 minutes of the concerto passed painfully quickly.

Demidenko's approach to Chopin is unique. The music's super-romanticism is channeled into a formal framework which provides such a tight enclosure to Chopin's emotional and pianistic excesses, that almost all of the composer's inability to cope successfully with the big form seems obliterated.

After the intermission, with Saint-Saens's Symphony No. 3 ("Organ") everything changed. The 40 minutes of the symphony, with Guschlbauer on the podium, lasted 40 minutes too long.

Manna Auditorium, Tel Aviv; March 6. Benjamin Bar-Am

RUSSIAN immigrant pianist Boris Konovallov presented a purely Romantic recital in the "Friday Noon Music from Ein Kerem" series, including works by Chopin, Liszt and Rachmaninoff.

A dominant characteristic of his playing Chopin's Sonata No. 2, the program's centerpiece, was its gripping temperateness and release of forceful energies, though it was overstated at times and at the expense of subtle details.

His lyrical sensibilities, expressed in the funeral march's melodic passage, established the required balance. Konovallov tends to emphasize contrasts in a thoroughly pleasing manner, demonstrating convincingly in Chopin's Scherzo No. 2. The mazurkas, for this pianist, were not so much dances as aristocratic swift entertainment pieces.

Peppery renditions of Rachmaninoff preludes were tossed off with abandon and exuberant temperament. In Liszt's Rhapsodie Espagnole he achieved a brilliant virtuoso tour de force with dashing bravura.

This is a remarkably gifted artist who has something to contribute to the local music scene, and deserves to be heard by wider audiences. Targ Music Center, Jerusalem, March 8. Ury Eppstein

WHEN young violinist Chee-Yun decided to dedicate her encore to the memory of the victims of the recent terror attacks and addressed the audience in Hebrew there wasn't a dry eye left in the house.

And when she went on to play that encore, the largo from Bach's C major violin sonata, it was as if she

was weeping with us. This was music making that went directly from her very inner soul to the depths of our own emotions, it was music making that cried with those grieving and also hoped for a better world.

It was both angry and serene, dramatic and lyric. And it followed to perfection Chee-Yun's rendition of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, a warhorse of many a violinist. But in contrast with the usual schmaltzy saccharine approach, Chee-Yun emphasized the pessimism and the agony of this piece.

Even more impressive than her full, round sound and perfect technique, was her interpretation which suggests a life experience much longer and deeper than her age.

Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra is the toughest test any orchestra can face and the Haifa Symphony did not pass it with distinction. Under music director Stanley Sperber's precise baton, the orchestra's finest section, i.e. the excellent winds, shone, while other sections were less impressive, resulting in a performance that suffered more often than not from an inner imbalance.

Haifa Auditorium, March 10. Michael Ajzenstadt

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

Table with columns: THIS WEEK, LAST WEEK, CHARTS, ARTIST, TITLE. Lists top-selling albums like 'RABIN - GOODBYE FRIEND' and 'MURDER BALLADS'.

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Sterling ... NIS 4.7193 -0.29%
Mark ... NIS 2.0900 -0.14%

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

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Commercial Banks
Name Price %Chg
Bank Leumi 159.00 -0.8

Two-sided trading
Name Price %Chg
Aramco 293.72 -0.8

Afternoon
Name Price %Chg
Aramco 293.72 -0.8

Morning
Name Price %Chg
Aramco 293.72 -0.8

Two-Sided Index
202.36 -0.47%

Maof Index
212.41 -0.37%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET
New York market indexes
Last Change
DJ Industrial 581 +110.56

Israeli stocks in NY
Last Change
NYSE /AMEX
Amptel A 36.875 -0.375

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Concern over Dow pushes indexes lower

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL
The indexes fell for a fourth straight session yesterday amid concern US stocks would continue the slide that began on Friday.

Investors are "waiting for Wall Street," said David Rosenberg, chief of research at Pacific Mediterranean Securities in Herzliya.

In addition, the government posted an 18 percent wider trade deficit for February, and retirement funds reported redemptions for the month, Rosenberg said.

The most active stock on the exchange was Koor Industries Ltd., down 0.75% on NIS 5 million of shares traded.

Koor's American Depository Receipts traded in New York, each representing 0.2 shares traded here, fell 1/4 Friday to 19 3/4.

Another closely watched stock that trades in both cities, Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd., slipped 1% in Tel Aviv.

On Friday, US stocks suffered their worst drop since November 1991, as a surge in job growth dashed expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates soon.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 171.24, or 3%, to 5470.45.

The Maof Index finished down 0.37% to 212.41, and the Two-Sided Index fell 0.47% to 202.36.

More than NIS 7.5m. worth of shares traded, 6% less than the month's average of NIS 82.4m.

More than two and a half shares fell for each one that rose.

Sigh of relief in Europe

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares finished lower but well above their worst levels, as fears of a sharp slide on Wall Street failed to materialize.

The FTSE 100 index closed 35.8 points down at 3,674.5, after an earlier low of 3,629.1.

FRANKFURT - The stock market dropped 2.5 percent by the end of floor trade after Friday's tumble on Wall Street, but dealers said the worst was over and the market showed signs of stabilizing in later trade.

The blue-chip DAX index ended 61.33 points lower at 2,407.79, up from a session low of 2,400.54.

PARIS - Shares closed 1.35% lower after a nail-biting day filled with worries about further Wall Street losses ended with some relief.

Dow soars 110 points

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The stock market soaped back on fast-paced buying yesterday as Wall Street viewed Friday's plunge as overdue.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up a huge 110.55 points, or two percent, at 5,581.00.

Friday's drop of 171 points in the Dow was its third-biggest point loss ever.

In the broader market, advancing issues beat declines by a 2-1 margin on active volume of 451 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

LIKUD

Meanwhile, the Knesset House Committee formally accepted the request by David Levy and David Magen to form a new Knesset faction, "Gesher - the national social movement."

The Likud Knesset faction now numbers 29, following the Gesher breakaway and Ephraim Gur's resignation.

Lit Collins contributed to this report.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK
Name Price %Chg
Alcoa 26.75 -0.25
Alcoa Ind 26.75 -0.25

PARIS
Name Price %Chg
Alcoa 26.75 -0.25
Alcoa Ind 26.75 -0.25

FRANKFURT
Name Price %Chg
Alcoa 26.75 -0.25
Alcoa Ind 26.75 -0.25

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Point: Last Change
Dollar 3 months 6.4933 -0.0009

Libor rates
Last Change
3 months 6.4933 -0.0009

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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Fax. 02-244876

INFLATION MARKETS AND METALS

US commodities

Cocoa (May) 1940 -0.00
Coffee (May) 1940 -0.00

London commodities

Cocoa (May) 1940 -0.00
Coffee (May) 1940 -0.00

Spot market rates (US)

Gold 366.8 -1.49
Silver 5.91 -0.01

New York metal futures

Gold (May) 366.8 -1.49
Silver (May) 5.91 -0.01

Knesset extends IEC franchise

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset yesterday easily approved a 10-year extension of the Israel Electric Corp.'s franchise, after Labor MKs overwhelmingly supported the IEC union's demands and opposition MKs largely absented themselves from the vote.

The 10-year extension passed 44-18, supported by Labor, the Arab parties, the National Religious Party, and the Mapam faction of Meretz. An alternative proposal by Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor), which would have extended the franchise for only six years, was supported by the rest of Meretz and 10 MKs from the Likud, Tsomet, UTI, and Shas.

The group of Likud Finance Committee MKs which has vociferously opposed the law - Silvan Shalom, Ron Nahman, Meir Sheerit, and Dan Tichon - did not even bother to show up.

The entire electricity bill, of which the franchise extension was part, passed 45-13, with most of those who opposed the 10-year extension voting against the entire bill in protest. The law will allow private producers to manufacture up to 10 percent of the country's electricity, and will allow another 10% to be imported, but otherwise leaves the IEC's monopoly largely intact for the next 10 years.

However, the final law does include two other major changes introduced by Gal. The most important of these will allow private producers to sell electricity directly to customers, instead of only to the IEC, as the government had proposed. The IEC will transmit the electricity for the private producers, for a fee to be set by a public authority established by the bill.

In a rare move, Meretz and the Likud united to praise Gal for his efforts to change the bill.



A one-ton bronze lady by Colombian sculptor Fernando Botero is unloaded yesterday for an exhibition at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. (Isaac Harari)

WEATHER

Jerusalem 12-17
Tel Aviv 10-19
Haifa 9-18
Beersheva 10-17
Ashdod 12-18
Eilat 15-22

Forecast: Partly cloudy. Decline in temperature.

AROUND THE WORLD

| City | Low | High |
|--------------|-----|------|
| Amsterdam | 48 | 52 |
| Berlin | 48 | 52 |
| Buenos Aires | 21 | 27 |
| Calcutta | 22 | 28 |
| Chicago | 43 | 47 |
| London | 48 | 52 |
| Los Angeles | 54 | 64 |
| Manila | 24 | 30 |
| Mexico City | 18 | 24 |
| New York | 44 | 48 |
| Paris | 48 | 52 |
| Rangoon | 24 | 30 |
| Singapore | 24 | 30 |
| Tokyo | 48 | 52 |
| Washington | 48 | 52 |
| Zurich | 48 | 52 |

Israel sixth lowest in traffic fatalities

Jerusalem Post Staff

ISRAEL ranks sixth on the list of developed countries with the least traffic fatalities, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar revealed yesterday during a special meeting at the President's Residence about the war on traffic accidents.

Ahead of Israel on the list, calculated in terms of the least deaths per 100,000 residents, are Japan, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Sweden, and Norway.

"Despite this positive fact," Kessar said, "we can't remain complacent while more than 500 people die on our highways every year. We cannot continue to pay so high a price."

Kessar noted that over the last decade the number of cars on the roads has increased by some 90 percent, 2.5 times more than the increase in population, and that the number of cars per kilometer of road has increased from 59 to 104.

Ministry statistics show that while 20 years ago there were 110 cars for every 1,000 people, today there are 263.

In Tel Aviv, there are 400 cars for every 1,000 people, a figure similar to that in western Europe.

The ministry also reported that last year the police issued some 1.3 million traffic tickets, as opposed to 836,000 in 1994.

VCRs may soon be allowed in prisons

RAINE MARCUS

PRISONERS may soon be allowed to have VCRs in their cells, according to suggestions made yesterday by Prisons Service commissioner Arye Bibi.

Bibi has appointed a committee to examine the possibility. At present, prisoners may have TV sets in their cells.

If the suggestion is implemented, prisoners would be able to borrow video films from a library.

The Prisons Service's decision to consider allowing VCRs was made following repeated petitions by prisoners to the High Court of Justice. The court recommended that video systems be placed in each wing's club room and not in cells.

Concern in Mekorot over hydrological imbalance

DAVID RUDGE

MEKOROT has urged the public to save water and called for quotas of fresh water to farmers to be cut, amid growing concern over depleted resources.

Rafi Boaz, director of Mekorot's water resources division, said catch-flood reservoirs in the Golan Heights, Upper Galilee, Ha'amakim and Negev, were completely empty, despite last week's rainfall.

The precipitation did help raise the level of water in Lake Kinneret by nine centimeters but it is still 1.37 meters below the maximum mark.

Boaz said there was growing concern over the country's hydrological balance being harmed if there is no more rainfall this season. This winter the amount of precipitation has been below average, especially in northern and southern regions, and the dry weather in between the rainy spells caused most of the lying water to evaporate.

Winning cards

IN yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, seven of hearts, nine of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

Court returns twins to parents

BATSHEVA TSUR

TEL AVIV Juvenile Court yesterday decided to return to their parents twin babies who had been hospitalized for more than two months following allegations the parents had abused them.

The court ruled, however, that the twins and their parents would have to be under supervision for a three-month period. During this time, they will have to pay regular visits to Schneider Children's Medical Center in Petah Tikva, where the babies were hospitalized. They will also be under the supervision of a social worker.

In formulating its decision yesterday, the court said it had accepted the report of a psychiatric expert who found that the parents did not have the traits of parents who abused their children.

The parents were detained immediately after they brought the babies to the hospital in January.

However, a medical expert failed to identify the cause of the illnesses suffered by the two three-month-old babies. One twin is suffering from hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain) and the other from broken ribs. They were born by vacuum extraction and put in intensive care.

The source of the broken ribs, attributed by chief government pathologist Dr Hiss to abuse, was not established. However, a senior orthopedic surgeon testified that the broken ribs were a birth injury.

The parents, residents of Petah Tikva whose names cannot be published since the babies are minors, came to Israel in 1994 from Ukraine. The Zionist Forum decided to pay for their legal costs after becoming convinced they were innocent.

Forum director-general Ariella Ravdal yesterday expressed satisfaction with the decision.



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Please note:

With the commencement of daylight saving time in Israel at midnight on Thursday, March 14, the clocks will be moved ahead by one hour. All passengers on EL AL flight 001 to New York are kindly requested to arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport on Thursday night, March 14, no later than 9.30 p.m.

Thank You

EL AL

مكتبة التعمير